


IN THE CLAIMS

Add the following new claims:

--32. A method for protecting a growing plant from insects and from insect-transmitted plant viruses, which comprises applying to at least one surface of the growing plant, a composition comprising at least one interference pigment whereby said composition is effective to repel said insects and thus protect the plant, wherein said interference pigment is selected from the group consisting of:

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- a mica coated with TiO_2 ;
 - a mica coated with Fe_2O_3 ;
 - a mica coated with both TiO_2 and Fe_2O_3 ;
 - a mica coated with both TiO_2 and graphite;
 - a mica coated with TiO_2 and SnO_2 ; and
 - BiOCl crystals.

33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the interference pigment is mica coated with TiO_2 further containing in the coating at least one of graphite and SnO_2 .--